

II. REMARKS

The present application is United States Serial No. 10/593,001. Claims 1-9 are currently pending in this application.

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Office Action mailed September 2, 2011, included a restriction requirement requiring Applicants to elect one of the following Groups:

Group I (claims 1-6): drawn to an apparatus.

Group II (claim 7): drawn to a vehicle.

Group III (claims 8-9): drawn to a method.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant elects to prosecute the claims of Group I, drawn to an apparatus (claims 1-6).

The Office Action alleges that the claims of Group I, Group II, and Group III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2 they lack the same or corresponding special technical feature. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that the inventions are anticipated and/or obvious in view of Brannfors et al. (US 3,224,203). Therefore, the Office Action alleges that the claims of Group I, Group II, and Group III are not so linked within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.2 so as to form a single inventive concept and unity of invention. Applicants respectfully traverse.

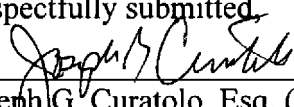
Applicants submit that a search for an apparatus which coats a tunnel inner surface would uncover art that included a vehicle containing the apparatus, and further a method for using the apparatus. The specification of Brannfors et al. discloses a method for coating tunnel inner walls with concrete utilizing an apparatus and vehicle. While Applicants defer an exhaustive traversal of

the allegations made regarding US 3,224,203 A (Brannfors et al.) absent a formal rejection in an office action on the merits, it is noted that Brannfors et al. does not disclose or suggest the apparatus features of a spray lance and carrier as recited in claim 1 of Group I. Claims 2-6 of Group I, claim 7 of Group II, and claims 8-9 of Group III depend ultimately from claim 1 and include its features.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of Group I, Group II, and Group III include a single inventive concept and possess unity of invention over Brannfors et al. In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of Groups II and III, and request the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance directed to claims 1-9.

All issues raised in the Office Action are believed to have been addressed. In view of the foregoing remarks, favorable action on the merits, and that an official Notice of Allowance issue for claims 1-9. Should the Examiner have any questions about the above remarks, the undersigned would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,



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